National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Diagnosis and epidemiology of leptospirosis

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Abstract:

Leptospirosis is a zoonosis found worldwide, the main reservoir of which is the rat. Human infection generally results from exposure to contaminated river or lake water or animals. Around 600 cases are diagnosed per year in France. Half of these cases occur in French overseas territories, where the incidence can be more than 100 times higher than in mainland France. Leptospirosis has been under-diagnosed because of non-specific symptoms, inadequate surveillance system, and lack of readily available quick and simple diagnostic tests. Most cases of leptospirosis are currently detected by PCR amplification of bacterial DNA from the blood during the first week after the onset of symptoms, or by detection of antibodies during the second week of the disease. More than 300 serovars have been identified among leptospires, including serovar Icterohaemorrhagiae, the most frequent in human infections. Leptospirosis remains a major public health issue in many developing countries, one century after discovering the causative agent. Leptospirosis is expected to become more important due to a rapid urbanization in developing countries (slums), global warming, and extreme climatic events (floods).

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.medmal.2012.11.005

Resource Description

Communication: ☑

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☑

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional

Exposure : ☑

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding

Geographic Feature: ☑

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location: ☑

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : France

Health Impact: ☑

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Leptospirosis

Medical Community Engagement: ☑

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☑

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☑

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified